

## Your Responsibility

As a business operator or property owner, you may have responsibilities under:

### 1. Local government bylaws

Your municipality or the CRD may have stormwater-related bylaws that include:

- prohibiting all business waste and other specific prohibited wastes from entering the storm drain system and local waterways
- catch basin maintenance, inspection and record-keeping requirements
- spill response plans
- protection of natural water courses, ditches and stormwater drainage system
- codes of practice for specific business sectors

Also, Bylaw 4168 applies specifically to all businesses on the Saanich Peninsula. This bylaw helps protect streams, lakes, and marine shorelines from pollution by prohibiting domestic, commercial, and industrial contaminants from entering stormwater drainage systems. It includes codes of practice for parking lots and outdoor storage of materials or equipment.

### 2. Other jurisdictions

**Emergency Management BC** is responsible for responding to spills of any hazardous/harmful substance (oils/grease, gasoline, paints/solvents, mechanical fluids, soils, etc.) in any quantity that may impact the environment.

Any person responsible for a stormwater drainage system contamination may be held liable under the following environmental legislation:

- federal *Fisheries Act*
- BC Hazardous Waste Regulation
- BC *Environmental Management Act*
- BC *Water Sustainability Act*



## Be a Watershed-wise Business

Watershed-wise businesses ensure contaminants in stormwater runoff stay out of storm drain system, local waterways and marine shorelines.

### Learn More

To learn more about being a watershed-wise business, visit:

- [www.crd.bc.ca/Bylaw4168](http://www.crd.bc.ca/Bylaw4168)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/catchbasin](http://www.crd.bc.ca/catchbasin)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/clw](http://www.crd.bc.ca/clw)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds](http://www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds)



Making a difference...together

#### Capital Regional District

Environmental Protection  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7  
250.360.3253

### In the event of a spill, contact:

**1. Emergency Management BC:**  
**1.800.663.3456 (available 24/7)**

**2. Local government contacts:**  
**[www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill](http://www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill)**

For Business

# Outdoor Storage

CRD | Environmental Services



**Reduce your environmental liability by preventing stormwater contamination**



Spill kit

## Sources of Spills

Outdoor storage serves a variety of purposes for many regular business operations; however, certain items need to be properly covered and contained.

Following stormwater best management practices or codes of practice is critical to preventing contaminants from entering the storm drain system, which leads directly into creeks, lakes, wetlands and marine shorelines. Remember to restock your spill kit after each use.

## Spill Response

If you have a spill/leak:

1. Make sure the spill poses no immediate threat to people. If flammable, eliminate all sources of ignition. **Call 911 for spills that are flammable, toxic, corrosive or hazardous.**
2. Stop source of spill and prevent flow from entering storm drains, ditch, roadway, creek or shoreline. **Do NOT clean up by hosing down the spill.** Instead, use absorbent pads, rags or kitty litter and put in the garbage.
3. **Call BC Environmental Emergency Program at 1.800.663.3456.** If the spill of a prohibited waste enters a storm drain, ditch or public roadway, also call your local government public works department. Phone numbers can be found at [www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill](http://www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill).

## Best Management Practices

### 1. Daily operations

- Never pour or allow any fluids, wash/rinse water, wastewater or spills to flow into storm drains, ditches, parking lots, outdoor work areas or roadways.
- Provide a spill kit near storage areas.
- Inspect all containers or tarped material stored outdoors regularly and after each rainstorm.
- Any leaking containers must be moved indoors or placed in a leak-tight, over-pack container immediately.

### 2. Locate, cover & contain

- Locate stored materials only on paved, impervious surfaces (at a lower elevation) and as far as possible from storm drain grates and drainage ditches.
- Provide secondary containment sufficient in size to hold a spill of stored liquids or leaks.
- Provide cover from rain and snow for items stored outdoors so contaminants don't get washed into storm drains, ditches or roadways.
- Secure storage from animals and vandals.
- Label containers to identify contents and hauler's phone number.
- If stored items are hazardous, keep copies of current Safety Data Sheets.

### 3. Employee education & training

- Review spill response plan and ensure spill kit is easily accessible and fully stocked.
- Always cover and contain materials, tools and waste.
- Regularly dry sweep parking lot and outdoor work areas. Do not hose down.
- Keep records of spills and catch basin maintenance.

### 4. Stormwater treatment works maintenance

- Property owners are responsible for maintaining treatment works in proper condition.
- Storm drain catch basins may require pre-treatment.
- Keep records of inspections and maintenance.

## Stormwater Pollution

Contaminated stormwater runoff is generated by rain or water from outdoor activities and transports contaminants over impervious surfaces (i.e., outdoor work areas or parking lots) into the storm drain network through catch basins or ditches. These drains and ditches lead directly to creeks, lakes, wetlands or shorelines.

Potential sources of stormwater pollution from businesses with any type of outdoor storage include:

- leaks from improperly stored material, items or equipment
- outdoor rinsing, or washing and maintenance of storage containers or storage areas
- improper disposal of wastewater

Examples of contaminants include:

- soil and compost piles
- business-generated wastes, recycling and compost
- fuel storage tanks and barrels
- solvents and caustics

These and other contaminants may be considered **prohibited wastes** under stormwater-related local bylaws. For a full list, see your local bylaw.